

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 061186
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW;DH
APPROVED BY AF - AMB. SCHAUFELLE
AF/S:FWISNER
AF/E-RBAKER
S/S MR. REDDY

-----190622Z 004162 /20

P R 190019Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

S E C R E T STATE 061186

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR US ASSURANCES RE: RHODESIAN
SETTLEMENT

- - -

REF: LILONGWE 388

1. DEPT IS AWARE THAT MUZOREWA IS GINGERLY APPROACHING
NEGOTIATIONS, THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES, WITH SMITH ABOUT
POSSIBILITY OF SOME FORM OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT BASED ON
AN INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED REFERENDUM. IT APPEARS

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THAT MUZOREWA'S CONCEPT OF THE GOALS OF A REFERENDUM
DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THAT HELD BY SMITH. FOR REASONS
OF HIS OWN, GABELLAH IS ONE OF THOSE MOST ANXIOUS TO PUSH
MUZOREWA DOWN THIS PATH. THE BISHOP IS JUSTIFIABLY WARY,
AND, THOUGH WILLING TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES, IT APPEARS
THAT HE HAS NOT MADE ANY COMMITMENTS AS YET. IT WOULD
OBVIOUSLY BE HELPFUL TO GABELLAH IF HE WERE ABLE TO

OBTAIN THROUGH BANDA SOME FORM OF US ASSURANCES,
SUPPORTIVE OF HIS POSITION. WE CLEARLY DO NOT WANT TO GET
INVOLVED IN INTRA-ANC POLITICKING AND DESIRE TO KEEP OUR
DISTANCE FROM ANY STRATEGY SO OBVIOUSLY PLAGUED WITH
POTENTIAL PITFALLS.

2. THE FOREGOING IS FYI BUT AT THE NEXT APPROPRIATE
OCCASION YOU MIGHT TELL PRESIDENT BANDA THAT THE U.S.
REMAINS DEDICATED TO SEEKING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL OF THE NATIONALIST PARTIES.
YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT WE FULLY SUPPORT THE BRITISH IN
THEIR ATTEMPTS TO FIND A BASIS UPON WHICH THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE CAN BE REINITIATED AND THAT WE WELCOME
FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO SOUTHERN
AFRICA AS PART OF THIS PROCESS.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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